

From the Editor

IN this month's special issue we have attempted to capture through images and words the essence of the September terrorist attack on America — an assault that occurred just as this issue went to press.

Senior writer Heike Hasenauer provides the context of the attack while Beth Reece, who flew in with the first rescue elements, tells us the story in the soldiers' words. The dramatic photographs of rescue efforts at the Pentagon were taken by SGT Carmen Burgess, who was in the building at the time of the attack, just around the corner from the airliner's point of impact. *Soldiers'* photographer Paul Disney was one of the first journalists on the scene and provides stunning images that capture the magnitude of the damage to the Pentagon.

In "Putting Transformation Into Practice" veteran correspondent Steve Harding introduces us to the Army's first Interim Brigade Combat Team, a carefully-crafted melding of firepower and mobility that provides a missing arrow in our nation's quiver of military options.

John C. Dutt

Not a Gig Sheet

I HAVE been reading *Soldiers* for many years and have always meant to send you some feedback. But now I feel I have to comment for the good of your fine magazine.

My issue is with the critical, ungrateful and rude soldiers who use your magazine as a gig sheet. Every month some disgruntled troop sends in a barrage of uniform violations, unit identification problems, or a miscaptioning in your magazine.

My recommendation to them is simple: try MAD magazine; the articles will suit them to a tee. They could possibly write Alfred E. Newman and tell him to get a haircut!

*Dave Vasicek
via e-mail*

ENIAC vs. Colossus

YOUR July rear cover story identified ENIAC as "the world's first electronic digital computer." Actually, the British Colossus Mark II was activated earlier than ENIAC — on June 5, 1944, to be exact. Since it was used to solve the highest grades of German ciphers, its existence was classified for decades and its role as the first true computer in the modern sense has been largely overshadowed by our better-known ENIAC system.

*MAJ John Halvorson, USAR
via e-mail*

Whacker or Detector?

DID you know that the photo on page 21 of the August issue shows a guy using a weed whacker, not a metal detector? The only thing being removed in that photo is unwanted vegetation.

*CPT Mitch Utterback
via e-mail*

Congratulations...

I WANT to commend Heike Hasenauer for her excellent July story "First Step to an Army of One." I believe it accurately contrasts the challenges of Basic Combat Training against how richly rewarding the experience can be for soldiers.

During my time as commander of Fort Jackson, and as the TRADOC deputy commanding general for initial-entry training, I observed and talked with thousands of new soldiers. Much of what I saw and was told is reflected in Ms. Hasenauer's well-chosen words.

*LTG John A. Van Alstyne
Fort Jackson, S.C.*



YOUR photograph of the Corps of Engineers contractor in the August issue states that the person in the photo is using a metal detector to find unexploded ordnance on Oahu. I believe he is actually using the Mk. I "Weed-whacker" to clear underbrush.

*CPT Brian Watson
via e-mail*

COULD you send me the NSN of that metal detector in the August issue? It looks like it will also weed-eat, which will save our troops a lot of time!

*CW4 Jon C. Weston
via e-mail*

THANKS to all those sharp-eyed readers who took the time to set us straight on the correct terminology of the device shown in the August article "Pacific Engineers." We regret the error, and we'd like to be able to say that it is really a new, high-tech metal detector and weed-eater in one. But the sad truth is that we simply don't do enough yard work to know the difference between the two!

A Question of Style

ON the **Soldiers Online**

website, it says the magazine goes by Associated Press style. This does not seem to be the case concerning the way the magazine displays Army ranks. If AP style is the guide, don't you think you should, for example, write "Staff Sgt." instead of "SSG" and "Spc." instead of "SPC"? It seems that **Soldiers** is using "officialese" style.

*John D. Wagner
63rd Regional Support
Command PAO
via e-mail*

WE do indeed follow AP style in most cases, but like most magazines we also have our own style guide — which specifies the use of Army rank notation. This admittedly makes for occasional confusion, but it — along with our superior equipment-identification skills — does keep those cards and letters coming in.

Award Awareness

I WAS with the 54th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Armored Division, in Saudi Arabia during operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort. I received the

Southwest Asia medal with three campaign stars. I was told that some units were awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal for Provide Comfort.

I never got around to finding out if my unit was one of those awarded the HSM. It has been more than 10 years, and I still haven't a clue on this subject. I would truly appreciate any information you might be able to provide on this matter.

*Saul Garcia
via e-mail*

I WAS looking up military awards on the Internet and came across your January 1998 issue. There is an "M" device listed on the page about ribbons, but I can't find it anywhere in AR 600-8-22. Can you help?

*1SG Kathryn E. Russel
via e-mail*

DO you know if the "combat patch" is being authorized for

service in Kosovo? If the patch is not being authorized, do you know the rationale for this combat zone being excluded?

*John Tongret
via e-mail*

Do you have any information about the requirements for the Korean Service Medal?

*SPC D. Warner
via e-mail*

Shari Lawrence, deputy public affairs officer for the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, advises that a visit to the website www.perscom.army.mil/tagd/awards/index.htm will answer many general questions dealing with awards, and that www.perscom.army.mil/tagd/awards/rokservice_medal.htm deals specifically with the KSM. She also suggests that soldiers with further questions contact their local personnel offices.

Adopt a Platoon

I AM a volunteer for a nonprofit organization called Adopt A Platoon. We link deployed soldiers to pen pal and adoption supporters.

Our website is www.adoptaplatoon.org. We encourage soldiers to check out the site and, if their units are ever deployed, we encourage them to sign their soldiers up for the support.

We feel that all soldiers are absolutely worth all the support we can give them.

*Lesley Stephens
via e-mail*

Parachute Problem

FIRST, I would like to congratu-

late you on your magazine. I always look for **Soldiers** at my unit office.

I work in the Canvas Shop of the California Army National Guard's Mobilization and Training Equipment Site at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. I am having difficulty obtaining the NSNs for certain colors and other items. I saw your June article on the Texas National Guard's Parachute Packing and Maintenance Shop, and I was wondering if you could assist me in obtaining catalogs or any other information from them.

*SGT Roberto Lopez
Fort Irwin, Calif.*

You can reach the PPMS directly at (512) 782-5036.

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



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